



STATE OF INDIANA  
INDIANA STATE EXCISE POLICE

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**For Immediate Release**

**Excise Police Arrest Store Owner for Possession of Synthetic Marijuana**

**PRINCETON, Ind. (July 10)** – Indiana State Excise Police arrested a convenience store owner this afternoon after an investigation into the sale of synthetic marijuana.

Excise police arrested Paresh S. Patel, 44, of Princeton, around 3:30 p.m. today after an 11-month investigation into the sale of synthetic marijuana at Sam Food Mart, 602 N. Main Street, in Princeton. On Aug. 22, 2011, excise police seized 491 packages of what they believed to be synthetic marijuana – products made illegal by a change in Indiana law on July 1, 2011. Lab tests on samples of these products confirmed they contained controlled substances.

As a result of this investigation, excise police arrested Patel this afternoon on a preliminary charge of felony possession of a synthetic cannabinoid. He was taken to the Gibson County Jail.

“The State Excise Police will continue its efforts to keep K2/Spice and other illegal substances off the streets,” Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. “These substances have the potential to cause serious health problems and their sale and use threatens public safety.”

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on enforcing Indiana’s alcohol and tobacco statutes.

*All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.*